



Herald Tribune photo by James Kavalines

HELD AS SPY—Dr. Robert Soblen, sixty, brother of confessed spy, Jack Soble, arriving handcuffed to an F. B. I. agent yesterday at Federal Court, Foley Square, where he was arraigned.

State Hospital Doctor Seized as Soviet Agent

Brother of Jack Soble, Admitted Spy Now Jailed, Is Held in \$75,000

By Ralph Chapman

Dr. Robert Soblen, a staff doctor at Rockland State Hospital at Orangeburg, N. Y., was arrested yesterday on charges of conspiring to steal

Lavrentia Beria, executed chief of the Kremlin's secret police.

Came to U. S. in 1941

The indictment says that Dr. Soblen came to this country on Oct. 20, 1941, from Vladivostok, landing in San Francisco. From that time on, it is alleged, he was in contact with Soviet agents in this country, one of whom was his brother.

Purpose of these contacts, according to the indictment, was to "communicate, deliver and transmit to a foreign government, to wit, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, information relating to the national defense of the United States of America."

It is this charge upon which Dr. Soblen could be sentenced to death if convicted.

Dr. Soblen lives at 128 Fort Washington Ave. and has a private office at 50 W. 72d St.

Links to O. S. S. Charged

Morton S. Robson, chief assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, has been in charge of the case for the government. He said that Dr. Soblen and his convicted brother were engaged "for years" in spy activities for the Soviet Union. He said that Dr. Soblen continued to obtain monthly reports about the New York office of O. S. S. and passed on information to Communist couriers.

Dr. Soblen pleaded innocent to the charges against him but Mr. Robson made a strong plea that he be held in \$150,000 bail. He said that Dr. Soblen was in a position, during World War II, to obtain photographs from the alleged co-conspirators and that "these photos were sent to Russia."

Mr. Robson declined to elaborate on the specific steps which led to Dr. Soblen's indictment and arrest but said that "much of the credit in this case must be given to the F. B. I., which has been conducting an intensive investigation for several years."

Asked why there was such a lapse of time between the arrest of the brothers, Jack and Robert, he said the government was not willing to begin prosecution of the latter until it was certain that it had sufficient evidence. He emphasized the amount of work put in on the present case.

Dr. Soblen obtained his medical degree at the University of Bern in Switzerland. During 1944 and 1945, he was employed by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. He conducted a private practice in New York for some time after that. He has been a naturalized citizen of the United States since 1947.

Although known by the name of "Soble" among some who know him, he said in court yesterday: "My legal name is Soblen."

secret defense information for the Soviet Union.

He was identified as the sixty-year-old brother of Jack Soble who pleaded to espionage charges in 1957 and is now serving a seven-year prison term.

Arraigned in United States District Court in Foley Square, Dr. Soblen was held in \$75,000 bail. Judge William B. Herlands scheduled a hearing for Dec. 20, when a trial date will be set.

Dr. Soblen, also known as Soble, was arrested after a Federal Grand Jury handed up a two-count indictment. The indictment charges him with conspiring "from in or about January, 1940, and continuously thereafter" to obtain all sorts of information concerning the national defense of the United States, "particularly information concerning the personnel, activities and organization of the Office of Strategic Services and other government intelligence and counter-intelligence offices."

Answers Calmly

A second count charges him with conspiracy to transmit this information to the Soviet Union.

Maximum penalty on conviction of the first count is ten years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. Maximum penalty under the second count is death.

Dr. Soblen was picked up at Orangeburg by F. B. I. agents yesterday as he was going to lunch. He was brought to New York for further F. B. I. questioning and finally appeared in Federal court about 3:30 p. m. He did not appear unduly upset, and answered questions in a calm voice with a slight accent.

Named as co-conspirators but not as defendants were a dozen and a half other persons, most of whom are not in the United States and many of whom have never been here. One "co-conspirator," for instance, is